"Perhaps the most striking specimens recently received by the Museum consist of the paraphernalia used in one of the tribal ceremonies of the Jivaro Indians, who inhabit the forest region of the rivers Pastaza, Morona, and Upano-Santiago and their tributaries, from the interior of Ecuador into Peru. The warlike character of the Jivaro has retarded the exploration of much of their country, hence a great deal is still to be learned concerning the tribal customs, and especially the ceremonies. For this reason little is yet known in regard to the dance regalia shown in the accompanying illustrations (figs. 92-94) or of the rites in which such are used. The objects consist of a breast ornament, a short apron or kilt, arm-bands, leg-bands, necklaces, head and hair ornaments, a spear, blowgun and darts, and a small bow. The breast ornament, which hangs from the neck almost to the knees, is made of beaten palm-bark having a soft cloth-like tex- [215] ture, and is so ornamented with brilliant feathers outlined and bordered with 'Job's tears' and with bean and other highly-colored seeds, interspersed with short tubular beads made of birdbone, as to form a grotesque human head, probably that of a warrior. The exposed parts of the bark cloth are painted with designs in bright red to represent the facial decoration of the personage, and the whole is further ornamented with a fringe of strung seeds having a parrot-feather attached to the end of each string. [217]

The kilt, or apron, is made in the same manner and of like materials, with the addition of a painted and incised gourd shell arranged as the central piece of the ornamenta-

tion. Like the breast ornament, the arm-bands are made of beaten bark adorned with seeds. The leg-bands consist of braided cord, attached to which are large seed shells which served also the purpose of rattles. One necklace is made of closely braided strands of human hair, another is of toucan-beaks.

The head-dress is a crown of upright black feathers banded with white breast plumage edged with crimson, supported on a frame of basketry. Another ornament consists of a woven cotton band, worn as a fillet beneath the crown of feathers. Attached to this fillet at the rear and falling below the waist is an ornament composed of a number of long tubular beads made of bird-bones arranged in rows, with a line of black seeds between each row. The lower extremity is decorated with bronze-green wing-sheaths of a species of tropical beetle, and with seeds and feathers.

A photograph of a Jivaro wearing the regalia not being available, the various articles are displayed on a model for the purpose of affording a slight impression of their appearance; but the gorgeous array of colors must of course be left to [218] the imagination. The crimson of some of the feathers and seeds predominates, but other feathers are yellow, green, and blue, with all the intermediate shades, imposed on the soft tan background of beaten bark, or suspended therefrom. Worn by an Indian against his warm-brown skin, the effect of this savage array must be striking indeed.

These objects, with others illustrating the Jivago culture, will be dis- [219] played among the collections of the Museum pertaining to the tribes of northwestern South America.